

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN RIC HOLDEN**, on January 5, 2001 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Ric Holden, Chairman (R)
Sen. Mike Halligan (D)
Sen. Walter McNutt (R)
Sen. Arnie Mohl (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Sen. Gerald Pease (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Jon Tester (D)
Sen. Tom Zook (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Pete Ekegren, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Laramie Cumley, Committee Secretary
Doug Sternberg, Legislative Services

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SB 55, 1/03/01
Executive Action: SB 55

Hearing on SB 55

Sponsor: SEN. MAC COLE, SD 4, Hysham

Proponents: Ralph Peck, Montana Department of Agriculture;
Bob Stephens, Montana Farm Bureau and Montana Grain Growers Association.
Dore Schwinden, Montana Farmers Union
Pam Langley, Montana AgriBusiness Association.

Opponents: none.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. MAC COLE, SD 4, HYSHAM, SEN. COLE introduced SB 55 and presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT(ags03a01)**

Proponents' Testimony:

Ralph Peck, Director Montana Department of Agriculture, presented testimony. **EXHIBIT(ags03a02)**

Bob Stephens, Montana Farm Bureau, Montana Grain Growers Association, Mr. Stephens testified that SB 55 is well needed for Montana grain producers.

Dore Schwinden, Montana Farmers Union, supported the language of this bill.

Pam Langley, Montana Agribusiness Association, spoke in favor of SB 55.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. JON TESTER asked if this was going to apply before the grain is delivered? **Mr. Peck** stated that it would apply as if you delivered grain to your grain elevator and did not get paid for it.

SEN. TESTER asked if the farmer who raised the seed could sell it at all anywhere else. **Mr. Peck** said no, the grain still is an asset to the company who is bankrupt.

SEN. TOM ZOOK spoke of a personal example of the situation **SEN. TESTER** and **Mr. Peck** had just discussed.

SEN. COREY STAPLETON asked if this change would only affect future situations. **Mr. Peck** clarified that indeed this bill is intended for future litigation problems.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. COLE felt that this bill was very well explained.

Organizational meeting

SEN. RIC HOLDEN presented committee rules. Committee members introduced themselves with a few words. Motion and discussion of proxy voting by absent senators.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. MIKE HALLIGAN** moved to **ACCEPT COMMITTEE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND ABSENTEE VOTING DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously.

Questions and answers from committee members. **Doug Sternberg, Legislative Services** presented resume.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 55

Motion/Vote: **SEN. HOLDEN** moved that **SB 55 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:45 P.M.

SEN. RIC HOLDEN, Chairman

LARAMIE CUMLEY, Secretary

RH/LC

EXHIBIT (ags03aad)